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# Louisiana Iris

1951



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## DEAR FRIENDS OF THE IRIS,

With this list a new commercial iris garden is born, and with it comes the desire to serve and to satisfy the many people who have urged and encouraged me in the undertaking.

Much has been said and written about these fabulous Louisiana iris, but few have been available to the gardeners of other sections. Many glowing descriptions have been given in the BULLETIN of the American Iris Society, but there have been too few outlets from which to buy the iris described there. This list is an attempt to alleviate that condition in part. I have bent every effort to secure for introduction the best of these iris that have not heretofore been introduced and to list the older iris that have proved their worth. Some have been admired for several seasons but have had no distribution; some are the latest things from the originator's seedling beds.

Too little is known about the hardiness of these varieties in the north, east, and midwest to make definite recommendations as to their limits. Those of Mr. Chowning's marked hardy, are hardy in Little Rock, and because of their *I. foliosa*, and *I. fulva* parentage, both of whose native habitat ranges farther north than the others of the Louisiana group, they should prove hardy throughout the entire iris belt. The others marked hardy are done so for the same reason. Some varieties that get nipped by late freezes here in the northern part of Louisiana may prove hardy where the winters are consistent. Quite frequently in late February and early March after spring growth is almost fully developed, a snap freeze will destroy the emerging bloomstalk on many of the early varieties. In the sections where the ground remains frozen until spring and where freezes do not occur after the buds on the trees have burst or the early flowering trees are in bloom, these early varieties may prove quite satisfactory.

The cultural directions to be sent with each order are designed for Louisiana conditions, but the principles are applicable anywhere. It is believed, however, though not proven, that in northern sections better drainage should be given where the ground freezes hard in wet soil conditions; and that where the sun is not as fierce as in the South and West, these iris could probably stand full sun with excellent results. I hope that those of you who will grow these iris will send me progress reports from time to time as to their adaptability to your conditions so that information might be made available to others.

Next spring when the Annual Meeting of the American Iris Society is held in Shreveport, those of you who attend will spend an afternoon in the garden where we have attempted to grow these exotic iris in as nearly a natural setting as these rolling clay hills can afford. You will see them used in a perennial garden picture as well, thus illustrating both bog and border culture.

I would like to extend to all of you a hearty welcome to Louisiana, to



Shreveport, and to the garden. To those of you unfamiliar with these Louisiana iris, may I extend to you an invitation to buy them, to grow them, and to get a new thrill from these beauties of the iris kingdom.

Sincerely yours,

*Sidney H. Conner*

### Terms:

Remittance with order: check, draft, or money order.

Postage prepaid with orders of \$5.00 or more. No orders less than \$5.00, please.

Shipments will be made from August 1 to September 15 unless otherwise requested.

I guarantee the iris to be true to name and disease free, but cannot guarantee that they'll live under circumstances beyond my control.

Cultural directions will be sent with each order.

Orders are accepted subject to stock on hand. I will not substitute unless authorized to do so on the order blank.

Because of scarcity of stock, I am unable to sell wholesale at the present time. Later, please.

### Join:

The American Iris Society. Dues \$3.50. Family membership, \$5.00.

The Society for Louisiana Irises. Dues are 50c per year plus membership (\$3.50) in the American Iris Society. Members of a family having one full membership may join the Society for Louisiana Irises for \$1.00 each, entitling them to full privileges of this Society but not of the American Iris Society. Dues may be sent to the American Iris Society.

Send dues to the American Iris Society, 444 Chestnut St., Nashville 10, Tenn., or Miss Marie Caillet, Box 365, S. L. I. Station, Lafayette, Louisiana.

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Home Gardening, 814 St. Louis Street, New Orleans 16, Louisiana, has interesting articles on the Louisiana Iris group.

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Cover drawing, "Haile Selassie," by Miss Caroline Dormon.

# Introductions:

## Seedlings of Frank E. Chowning

Unknown for several years to the iris world, Mr. Chowning in Little Rock has been creating untold beauty. Emphasizing hardiness and floriferousness, he has created a garden iris designed for more northern gardens than those of the deep South. His great use of *I. foliosa*, *I. fulva*, and their hybrids makes them more adaptable to border culture than those with a large part of *I. gigantea* *aerulea* blood which is tender and water loving. I take great pleasure in introducing for him:

**ACCOLADE.** (Reg. 1945). An uncontrolled hybrid believed to be Arkansas Yellow Fulva X Imperialis. Lovely flower whose petals are at first upright and later open to make a flat flower. Pure self of lavender-pink which has been aptly compared to strawberry ice cream in color. Slow of increase. 24 to 28 inches. Tends to become dormant after blooming. Hardy. Mid-season. \$10.00.

**BEAUTIFUL MELODY.** (Reg. 1950). Hybrid of Accolade X Dan Debaillon. Exquisite and dainty apple-blossom pink self, which has been greatly admired by all who have seen it. A truly lovely and distinctive Iris. Narrow gold line on sepal. 30 to 36 inches. Clean foliage. Hardy. Mid-season. \$15.00.

**BRIGHT GALAXY.** (Reg. 1950). Extremely dark red-purple hybrid of Haile Selassie X Louise Austin. Flowers are flat, of medium size, extra good substance and broad in their segments. Large greenish-yellow signal patch on sepal. Three open flowers to a stem. Clean foliage, lasting color. 18 to 24 inches. Hardy. Early. \$7.50.

**DELTA COUNTRY.** (Reg. 1950). A cross of Dixie Deb. X (Maringouin Fulva X Kraemer's Yellow). Although both parents are early, this yellow is late and is in bloom when other yellows are gone. Narrow, clean foliage and graceful stalks bearing 3 open flat, ruffled flowers of medium size. Color is a bright glistening yellow and all flowers borne during its first season had a striking, well-defined orange signal patch on petals and sepals. Unusually good grower. As a first year seedling it produced 21 fans, of which 6 made bloom stalks. Foliage clean, stems slender. 36 inches. Hardy. Late. \$12.50.



## Introductions:

**DIXIE DEB.** (Reg. 1950.) Large, clear sulphur yellow of distinctive form, heavy substance and fine lasting qualities. Sturdy, clean foliage and strong, well-balanced stalk 30 to 40 inches. Hybrid of (Maringouin Fulva X Foliosa) X Lockett's Luck. Hardy. Early, but long blooming. \$12.50.

**LOUISIANA PURCHASE.** (Reg. 1950). Flowers of good size, flat form, heavy substance, and color of antique ivory with faint overlay of burnt orange. Both petals and sepals frilled. Clean, sturdy foliage and erect stalk. 24 to 28 inches. Record of parentage lost. Hardy. Mid-season. \$10.00.

**MIDNIGHT STORM.** (Reg. 1950). Extremely dark inky-purple hybrid of Haile Selassie X (Hexagona X Arkansas Blue Foliosa). Broad segments, flat form and good substance. Large lemon signal patch on sepal. Narrow, clean foliage. 18 to 24 inches. Distinctive and hardy. Late Mid-season. \$7.50.

**QUAPAW TRIBE.** (Reg. 1950). Hybrid of Cardinalis X Louise Austin. Large flowers of bright copper-rose with long gold signal patch on sepal. Three open flowers to a stem. Fast color, clean foliage, 20 to 24 inches. Hardy. Late Mid-season. \$7.50.

**SPRING SORCERY.** (Reg. 1950). A hybrid of an Abbeville Red X (Hexagona X Giganteacoerulea). Large golden-apricot self. Very floriferous with strong clean foliage and upright stalk. 30 inches. Hardy. Early, but long flowering. \$10.00.

**TIDEWATER.** (Reg. 1950.) Dark lavender-blue hybrid of Haile Selassie X (Hexagona X Arkansas Blue Foliosa). Flowers large with broad segments and pointed sepals having long gold signal patch. Very floriferous. Clean, narrow foliage and strong stalk. 20 to 30 inches. Hardy. Late. \$7.50.

**TWILIGHT REVERIE.** (Reg. 1950). A seedling of Louise Austin but pollen parent record lost. Sturdy grower with clean foliage. Large flower, with broad segments, and a pure rose-lavender self with gold line on sepal. 24 to 28 inches. Hardy. Mid-season. \$7.50.



## Introductions:

### Seedlings of Mrs. Hattie Bradford Clark (Mrs. C. C.)

Mrs. Clark was one of the first enthusiasts in Shreveport to collect and hybridize the Louisiana irises. In her garden in Shreveport are grown only the best of what is available from the swamps and the seedling patches. Her discriminating taste is well known among the fans of these iris. So we are pleased to introduce these iris whom many have coveted since their first blooming.

**ADELAIDE BRADFORD.** (Reg. 1949). Bicolors and bitones in the Louisiana group are rare. By crossing a decided bicolor, Contrast, by one with bitone tendencies, Mary Swords Debaillon, Mrs. Clark has achieved this excellent variety. The sepals are rose-violet with a yellow signal patch; the petals are off-white, veined violet; the dark style arms are long. Medium height. \$10.00.

**GAY DECEIVER.** (Reg. 1947). This well-named iris has unmistakable individuality. The large, flat, ruffled flowers have a cream background covered with rose veining and a rose flush. At different stages of the flower's age there are hints of gold, pink, buff, and apricot about it. The style arms are short and flat; the form is campanulate, yet flaring. The substance and texture are excellent. Medium height. \$10.00.

### Seedlings of Caroline Dormon

Miss Dormon is certainly no stranger to the iris world. Through her many articles in the BULLETIN and other periodicals including some in England and Australia, through her lectures, and through her untiring correspondence, she has become familiar to all of us. In 1920, Miss Dormon collected her first Louisiana irises near Morgan City, Louisiana. Thus the records show that she was the first to grow these iris in the garden. There were probably others, but we do not know of them. When Dr. Small came to the state in 1926 to collect and classify this group, he was surprised to find her collection in North Louisiana. When Mary S. Debaillon saw Miss Dormon's collection, it inspired her not only to intensify her own efforts at collecting but to will her large and tasteful collection to her on her death. Miss Dormon named, registered, and made available to the public the best of this collection, but was not satisfied to end her activities there. Through her seedlings she has advanced these iris to new paths of glory. The blooming of her seed-



## Introductions:

lings every spring calls for no less than a pilgrimage to Briarwood, her home. She presents for your approval:

**ROSE OF ABBEVILLE.** (Reg. 1949) H. C. 1950. A result of Old Coral X Peggy Mac. The large 6-inch flowers are quite ruffled and creped. The form is flat with broad overlapping segments. The color is soft rose. Here is the first iris of Abbeville form with a triangular signal patch. Height 30 inches. \$10.00.

**VIOLET RAY.** (Reg. 1949). This iris caused a sensation in Shreveport last year. The result of an unnamed big Abbeville purple X Old Coral. The 6½-inch flowers of pansy purple have a flat form, very firm and very broad segments. The radiant light yellow signal patch is surrounded by cream rays that extend to the center of the sepal. Height 30 inches. Most striking. Stock very limited. \$15.00.

### Seedlings of Dee Randolph Kerper (Mrs. John F.)

Mrs. Kerper inherited her love for the Louisiana Irises from her mother, Mrs. Robert Lee Randolph, who was in the circle of early enthusiasts that included Mrs. Mary S. Debaillon, Mrs. Cammie G. Henry, Mrs. Lillian H. Trichel, and Miss Caroline Dormon, all of whom will never be forgotten in the annals of Louisiana iris history. It is in memory of Dr. John K. Small, who first brought this group of iris to the attention of the botanical and horticultural world that Mrs. Randolph named the stunning iris below that I am introducing for Mrs. Kerper. The other iris is named in honor of her mother, a fitting tribute to one of our first collectors and pioneer enthusiasts. This later iris is the climax of many years of planting selective seed.

**DR. JOHN K. SMALL.** (Reg. 1944) A. I. S. Bronze Metal 1940. This flower is well-known for its immense radiant signal patch set on a wide rose sepal for heavy texture and good substance. The undertone is gold, as is the underside of the sepal. The petal is rose. 39 inches. Very striking. \$5.00.

**MRS. ROBERT LEE RANDOLPH.** (Reg. 1950). On a tall, straight stalk of 40 inches are displayed these unique flowers the color tones of which surround Cosmos in the color charts. The sepals of the large 6-inch flowers



## Introductions:

are almost heart-shaped; having a notch in the end. It is further enhanced by a small linear patch of clear yellow. The petal is very slightly lighter than the sepal, but giving the impression of a beautiful clear self of sporty and beautiful appearance. An iris that impresses all who see it. \$10.00.

### Seedlings of Sally Smith (Mrs. Alex F.)

Mrs. Smith's garden in Shreveport has long been a haven for good iris, iris lovers, and iris talk. Hers is perhaps the most comprehensive planting in the state. Here one sees the latest novelties planted beside the old favorites, all grown to perfection. From her thousands of seedlings she has selected the following, already familiar to the readers of the A. I. S. BULLETIN in which they have been acclaimed for several seasons. With great pleasure and for your enjoyment, I present for her:

**BLUE CHIP.** (Reg. 1950). This iris is heralded as the first blue of Abbeville form—an entirely new and much-sought-for coupling of form and color. The 6-inch flowers of hyacinth-blue have the form of Peggy Mac, long acknowledged the most perfect form of the Abbeville type. The 36-inch stalk with lateral branching displays the blooms to perfection. One of the most advanced iris to date. \$15.00.

**ROYAL GEM.** (Reg. 1947) H. C. 1950. Another iris of beautiful form, texture, substance, and coloring. The form is flat with overlapping floral segments; the petals stand stiffly at a 30-degree angle over the sepal; the sepals are flaring, are orbicular, and display a triangular signal patch of bright gold that does much to enhance the beauty of the intense red-violet of the rest of the flower. The texture is of a high sheen velvet; the substance is firm. Three blooms open simultaneously on one stalk is common. Occasionally there will be four. A most worthy iris. \$10.00.

**SUNNY.** (Reg. 1947). This clear yellow flower is a bright spot in any planting. On a 30-inch stalk are displayed its 5½-inch flat flowers. Lateral branching helps make this one of our most floriferous yellow iris. A charming variety. \$5.00.

And these are mine:

**BRIARWOOD PUNCH.** (Reg. 1949.) This seedling of Cajun Joyeuse

## Introductions:

is a blend giving the effect of daphne red (Ridgway) with an undertone of gold, moss pink veining. The 5½-inch flowers are displayed on a 30-inch stem. The rhizome does not grow in such strides as do most of these iris, thus affording a more compact clump. The name comes from the punch made of wild fruit juices served at Briarwood, the home of Miss Caroline Dormon and Mrs. Virginia D. Miller. Because it is a good multiplier, it is available at the low introduction price. \$5.00.

**CAROGINIA.** (Reg. 1948). A decided bitone that has 6-inch flowers of campanulate form displayed on a 30-inch stalk. The almost orbicular sepals are deep cream heavily veined and splashed on the edge dahlia carmine. The petals are cameo pink. Mid-season. \$7.50.

**EARLY MORN.** (Reg. 1950). This iris attracted more attention than any other in the garden this year. The flat 7-inch flowers have a deep cream base splashed with old rose. A few hours after opening, the center of the sepal fades to a near cream, giving a somewhat plicata effect; the petals have an old rose line down the center. Style arms are marsh rose centered and edged bright gold. The 36-inch stalk has lateral branching, affording the simultaneous bloom of three blooms to a stalk. Early to mid-season. \$10.00.

**EULETTE P. FRANCIS.** (Reg. 1950). This large, outstanding 7-inch flower is an improvement on its seed parent, New Orleans. The sepals are wider, the form flatter, and the color cleaner. The color is nearest dahlia carmine in the shade, but in the sun, it gives a light rose effect. 30 inches. Early. \$10.00.

**PALE HANDS.** (Reg. 1950). "Pale Hands I love beside the Shalimar..." A favorite with those who like delicate shades. The large 7-inch flowers are slightly ruffled at the edge. Though large, it has grace, a delicate air about it. The color chart says that it's geisha, but the effect is a much lighter and warmer pink, especially in the sun. 36 inches. Early to mid-season. \$10.00.

**ROSES AND WINE.** (Reg. 1948). A sister seedling of Caroginia, similar, but with an entirely different personality. Whereas Caroginia is more stately and tailored, Roses and Wine is a bit more merry. The sepals of the 5½-inch flowers have an ochraceous salmon ground closely and heavily veined



## Introducing:

bordeaux, shading out to dahlia purple at the edge. At the tip it pinches slightly—just enough to add a mark of individuality. The fluted petals are jasper pink with an occasional stitch of dahlia carmine for good measure. 30 inches. Mid-season. \$7.50.

**SYLVAN DUET.** (Reg. 1949). This is the nearest thing to a blue and white bicolor we have. In the sun the sepals are Chinese violet; in the shade the effect is much bluer. It is enhanced by a V-shaped signal patch of bright yellow. The petals are very light cream with a center rib the same color as the sepal. The laterally branched stalks makes this one of our most floriferous iris frequently displaying three or four blooms simultaneously. Very dainty. 36 inches. Early to mid-season. \$15.00.

**WEDOWEE.** (Reg. 1949). This large bicolor is a child of New Orleans. The flower spans 8 inches when spread. The slightly recurving sepals are orchadee, flushed and veined Patricia; the petals are cream, flushed slightly orchid-pink. One of the largest blooms we have. 30 inches. Early. \$10.00.

## 1950 - 51 Price List:

**ABBEVILLE TYPE YELLOWS** (Collected or true seedlings). The Abbeville type is noted for their large, flat, overlapping floral parts. Most of these iris have a tendency toward reflexing floral parts. The yellow is not clear, having a great deal of cream and tan in it. A most striking plant and color. Rare. \$2.00.

**ABBEVILLE TYPE REDS** (Collected). Same as above except they are larger and less rare. Striking colors. \$1.00.

**ACCOLADE** (see introductions).

**ADELAIDE BRADFORD** (see introductions).

**BAYOU SUNSET** (McMillan) MSD Award 1949, H. M. 1950. This striking iris begs for adequate description. The 8 inch flowers are of a striking deep rose-pink with hints of amber and gold in its make-up. The large raying signal patch almost covers its broad, almost orbicular sepal that recurves. The texture is very firm, and holds up well in sun and rain. Definitely one of the most outstanding iris in the Louisiana group. \$4.00.

**BAYOU VERMILLION** (Debaillon-Dormon). This crimson Abbeville is considered by some to be the best red in that group, is widely used for hybridizing.

## 1950 - 51 Price List:

Its 6½" flowers are borne on an 18" to 24" stem. The signal patch consists of four gold lines. \$3.50.

**BEAUTIFUL MELODY** (see introductions).

**BLUE CHIP** (see introductions).

**BRIARWOOD PUNCH** (see introductions).

**BRIGHT GALAXY** (see introductionus).

**CAJUN JOYEUSE** (Thomas). The general effect of this iris is rose-pink with the sepals a deeper shade than the petals. For consistancy of good bloom, and showiness of the clump, it is hard to beat. An excellent parent for hybridizing. \$.50.

**CARDINALIS** (Debaillon-Dormon). One of the firmist Abbeville type reds we have. The overlapping floral parts are of cardinal; the signal patch is a single gold line. The 6½" flowers bloom on a 36" stem. \$1.50.

**CAROGINIA** (see introductions).

**CAROLINE DORMON** (R. Dormon). An iris certainly worthy of its name. If the unusual is what one likes, here it is. Starting with a heart of pale gold, the colors blend to a deep rose-red at the tip of the sepals and petals. The sepals recurve slightly upward at the tip forming a point. A 6" flower borne on a 36" stem. Has a deeper color in the sun. \$3.50.

**DELTA COUNTRY** (see introductions).

**DIXIE DEB.** (see introductions).

**DR. JOHN K. SMALL** (see introductions).

**EARLY MORN** (see introductions).

**EDITH DUPRE** (G. Arceneaux). A clump of this lovely little iris is a sight to behold. The 3½" flowers are a golden yellow flushed heavily over the sepals with a deep rose. A fine iris for small arrangements and corsages. \$1.00.

**EULETTE P. FRANCIS** (see introductions).

**GAY DECEIVOR** (see introductions).

**GRETNA** (Debaillon-Dormon). A deep blue-violet of giganticaerulea form that never ceases to bring comment, especially when planted near lighter colors—



## 1950 - 51 Price List:

creams, pinks, yellows, or whites. 6½" flowers on a stem. \$.75.

**GULF SUNSHINE** (Debaillon-Dormon). This little pure yellow fulva is showier if allowed to clump near darker, and taller iris. The 3½" flowers are borne on a 24" stem. \$1.50.

**GYPSY RED** (Debaillon-Dormon). What a color! What a display! The iris gets its name from its color, blooms well above the foliage and forms a compact clump. Put it in the sun where it can flame. \$2.50.

**HAILE SELASSIE** (Coll., McMillan). One stem of Haile frequently will have three and sometimes four deep red-violet flowers open at a time. This natural hybrid was found where the Abbeville Reds meet *I. foliosa*. The flower form is that of the "Abbes". This iris has consistently given forth excellent and interesting prodigy. \$.75.

**HOMOCHITTA** (Debaillon-Dormon). Bears an Indian name meaning "big red". Is a rich red. When spread the bloom measures 7". 36" stem. \$2.00.

**JEUNE FILLE** (Dormon). The best of the collected whites of *giganticaerulea* form. The frilly flowers, suggesting a young girl in ruffled organdy, gave the flower its name. Height, 36". \$1.50.

**JUNE CLOUDS** (Dormon). These 6½" ethereal white flowers are rated as the best in the white class today. The broad segments are very frilled. The signal patch is a soft yellow. Height, 24". \$5.00.

**KING'S GOLD** (Coll., Nelson). A rich gold of Abbeville form. The substance is firm affording stiff flaring sepals; the texture is of smooth, thick velvet. The linear signal patch is of deeper gold than the flower color with a border of brown. Excellent. \$4.00.

**KRAEMER YELLOW** (Kraemer). The first yellow of *giganticaerulea* form. The color is a rare shade of sulphur yellow. Very dainty and lovely. Has proved an excellent parent. \$4.00.

**LOUISE AUSTIN** (G. Arceneaux). A hybrid of *I. fulva* and *I. foliosa*. It displays the floriferousness of each. Where well grown, it has five bloom axils and true lateral branching. Seldom is there a plant that does not bloom three to a stem at one time. This low growing variety is best near the edge of a bed, or used as a border. 4½" flowers on an 18" stem. \$.50.

**LOUISIANA PURCHASE** (see introductions).

**MARY SWORDS DEBAILLON** (Debaillon-Dormon). This huge 7" flower is one of our most spectacular. Is slightly bitone with lavender-rose sepals and or-

## 1950 - 51 Price List:

chid-pink petals. Its signal patch is broad and yellow. Has proved an excellent parent. \$1.50.

**MIDNIGHT STORM** (see introductions).

**MRS. ROBERT LEE RANDOLPH** (see introductions).

**NEW ORLEANS** (Debaillon-Dormon). One of the showiest iris we have, a brilliant rose-pink, 8" flower span on a 30" to 36" stem. Won the Best Iris in the Show Award of the Soc. for La. Irises, 1945. \$1.50.

**PALE HANDS** (see introductions).

**PEGGY MAC** (McMillan). This is the ideal in the flat, overlapping Abbeville form. The 6" magneta-rose flowers are borne frequently three at one time on a 30" stem. Has proved an excellent parent. \$3.50.

**QUAPAW TRIBE** (see introductions).

**RHUMBA** (Shehee). This huge 7" flower is truly striking. Over a deep cream base is heavy veining of orchid. A showy variety. Height, 36". \$1.00.

**ROSE OF ABBEVILLE** (see introductions).

**ROSES AND WINE** (see introductions).

**ROYAL GEM** (see introductions).

**RUTH MARSALIS** (Dormon). A very large blue flower of 7" on a 40" stem. The color is a very unique, soft shade of blue, yet vivid. There is a long clear cut light crest that is continued by a dark line to the tip of the sepal. Excellent. \$2.00.

**SPRING SORCERY** (see introductions).

**SUNNY** (see introductions).

**SYLVAN DUET** (see introductions).

**TIDEWATER** (see introductions).

**TWILIGHT REVERIE** (see introductions).

**VIOLET RAY** (see introductions).

**VINEYARD** (Debaillon-Dormon). When spread this recurving Abbeville iris has a span of 7". The color is most unique, being a blend of Burgundy, port, and Bordeaux—thence its name. \$1.50.

**WEDOWEE** (see introductions).





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